

Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Collaborative

How Working Group Meetings will Function

Participants of the Clearwater Nez Perce forest planning summit decided that there would be one collaborative group representing the diversity of interests in the forests with the ability to break into smaller multi-interest working groups when needed. Because they represent a diversity of values and interest they developed the following set of rules and protocols to make recommendations to the US Forest Service regarding the forest plan revision.

Meetings

- There will be two types of meetings, full group meetings and individual working group meetings. A full group meeting encompasses the entire collaborative group. The working groups are the smaller groups. If members of an individual working group were spread across three towns, then the location of the meeting would alternate.
- The full group will meet once a month to make recommendations and receive their assignment on their next topic. The full group will convene, then will break up into working groups, then reconvene to make recommendations. The full group meeting will likely occur in rotating centralized locations TBD, possibly Orofino or Grangeville.
- It is suggested that when new forest plan revision topics are addressed, the group should meet as a whole (or simultaneously via VTC) and be briefed by the Forest Service. Briefings will happen at the end of each monthly collaborative meeting. Individual working groups may then meet separately and submit their recommendations electronically to the whole group. At the next convening of the whole group, consensus would be decided. (This would require grouping of topics)
- The smaller working groups will meet as needed in between full group meetings. Small working groups will discuss their interests and may use e-collaboration. This largely depends on the schedule of working group members.
- To the extent possible, all working groups should meet at the same time at least when there are presentations via Video Teleconferencing (VTC)) across groups. Video or Power Points should be provided to groups unable to meet at that time. If working groups do not meet at the same time, it should be ensured that groups are progressing through the material at a similar pace as the full group.

Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Collaborative

How Working Group Meetings will Function

Membership

New members will be recruited through January to create diverse working groups. The purpose of new members is to fill missing interests or knowledge. The new members must agree to the rules of the collaborative group and must undergo a thorough briefing (covering both the protocol and what has been decided upon, to date). Briefing of new members will be shared by the working group and the USFS. New members cannot go back retroactively to address decisions already made by the full group.

Identified alternates to members will be allowed. If a member is absent they are responsible for finding and informing their alternate. If participating in the absence of a group member, alternates will have full voting privileges. The full group may invite people to come in to present their point of view, but they will not have voting privileges.

Meeting Protocol

Voting Methods - When moving towards consensus the working group will use “thumbs up” or “Four levels of Support” with no blocking vote without providing alternatives. If there is still no consensus, the members may submit a report of the majority and those opposed may submit a minority report.

Chair - Working groups will have a rotating chair every month to lead meetings.

Meeting - missing a meeting is strongly discouraged, but it is acceptable to send a knowledgeable and prepared alternate who participates fully.

Meeting Minutes - U. S. Forest Service will keep the meeting minutes and protocols. Individual working groups will provide their own record of decisions.

The meetings and information are public and the collaborative will review and consider input and comments from the public received at meetings or from the Forest Service

Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Collaborative

How Working Group Meetings will Function

The role of the USFS in the working group process

The US Forest Service will be responsible to:

- Set agenda for, provide briefing information, and provide resource specialist presentations prior to meetings
- Provide information upon request
- eCollaboration - Set up digital repository for information requests and storage
- Work with counties and tribal governments to set up and help present information at the community check-ins
- Be responsible for providing orientations of background information to new members joining the process late
- Be responsible for video and teleconferencing
- Set up meetings and provide facilitation for the entire collaborative
- Provide note takers to record minutes during meetings. Subgroups will keep their own record of decisions.
- Be responsible for disseminating meeting summaries between groups
- Provide oversight on topics or actions that are out of the scope of the decisions being made in the forest plan revision
- Maintain the schedule of full working group meetings and publish electronically